SUBJECT No. 5.

Levy of court fees in village courts.

Note placed before the Assembly by Government.—There is a persistent demand for fresh village courts and for extending the jurisdiction (both pecuniary and territorial) of the existing ones. Institutions in almost all these courts are on the increase, and as a natural consequence there is a demand for clerical assistance.

At present the number of village courts is 31 in Municipalities and 173 in villages. A clerk on Rs. 10 for the former and on Rs. 5 for the latter courts would involve an expenditure of Rs. 1,175 per month or Rs. 13, 100 per year. Under the Regulation no court fees are leviable on suits filed in the Village Courts. Sanction of clerks, though on the modest scale referred to above, would mean heavy extra cost, in addition to the loss already incurred by the non-levy of court fees.

It is reasonable to expect that these courts should be self-supporting. It is therefore for consideration whether court fees at a lower rate than is ordinarily chargeable under the Court Fees Regulation might be levied on plaints filed in these courts.

Discussion on the subject.—It was explained that under the existing regulation no court fees can be levied on suits in village courts, and that Government find it necessary to impose the fees.

When one of the Assembly members wanted to know what fees are going to be levied and other details, it was explained that if the members were agreeable to the proposal the details would be worked out. It was also explained that Government were not going to levy the full fees ordinarily leviable under the Court Fees Regulation, but to start with, they would impose one-quarter of such fees. Government would not have brought this question up, had it not been for the great demand for clerical staff in these courts, where the work had been steadily increasing. The proposal is to levy these fees so that a clerical staff may be appointed from funds realised by this levy.

Almost all the members of the Assembly agreed to the proposal.

SUBJECT No. 6

Introduction of the Irrigation Act in Mysore.

Note placed by Government before the Assembly.—The construction of large irrigation works, like the Vani Vilas Sagara and the Krishnarajasagara, has made it very necessary to take suitable steps for their efficient management and to secure economy in the distribution and use of water. The existing rules which were framed to meet the condition of small tanks and channels affcting the interests of a single village or of a few neighbouring villages have been found to be altogether inadequate in the case of these large works impounding vast quantities of water and affecting the interests of a considerable number of villages, and of a large number of raiyats and landholders both resident and non-resident.

In the case of the smaller and older works, the distribution of water can, without serious inconvenience, be left to the raiyats themselves, although even here, there has been a great waste of water. But in the case of large works, regulation of supply and distribution of water cannot possibly be left to the rayats. Special steps are, therefore, necessary to govern these.

The need for the utmost economy in the use of water when it has to be supplied from large storage works, as in